OK TO ENTER: /TT/
03/16/2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A displacement type expansion machine which is equipped with an expansion mechanism in which power is generated as a result of expansion of high-pressure fluid supplied to an expansion chamber,

wherein:

a communicating passage, for establishing fluid communication from a fluid outflow side of said expansion chamber to an expansion-process intermediate position of said expansion chamber, is provided, and

said communicating passage is provided with an opening/closing mechanism, and

said communicating passage communicates with said expansion chamber at a position immediately after the occurrence of overexpansion.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The displacement type expansion machine of claim 1, wherein said opening/closing mechanism is formed by a check valve which permits fluid flow in a direction from the fluid outflow side of said expansion chamber towards the expansion-process intermediate position of said expansion chamber, but prevents fluid flow in a direction from the expansion-process intermediate position of said expansion chamber toward the fluid outflow side of said expansion chamber.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The displacement type expansion machine of claim 2, wherein said check valve is formed by a spring return type check valve which is configured so as to enter the open state whenever fluid pressure at the expansion-process intermediate position of said expansion chamber falls below fluid pressure at the fluid outflow side of said expansion chamber by more than a predetermined amount.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The displacement type expansion machine of claim 1, wherein said opening/closing mechanism is formed by an electromagnetic valve which is configured so as to enter the open state whenever fluid pressure at the expansion-process

intermediate position of said expansion chamber falls below fluid pressure at the fluid outflow side of said expansion chamber by more than a predetermined amount.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The displacement type expansion machine of any one of claims 1-4, wherein said communicating passage is formed so as to extend through the inside of a constructional member which constitutes said expansion mechanism.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The displacement type expansion machine of any one of claims 1-4, wherein said expansion mechanism is configured so as to perform an expansion stroke of a vapor compression refrigerating cycle.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The displacement type expansion machine of any one of claims 1-4, wherein said expansion mechanism is configured so as to perform an expansion stroke of a vapor compression refrigerating cycle in which a high-level pressure becomes a supercritical pressure.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The displacement type expansion machine of any one of claims 1-4,

wherein:

said expansion mechanism is a rotary type expansion mechanism, and

rotational power is recovered by expansion of fluid.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A fluid machine comprising a casing which houses therein a displacement type expansion machine , an electric motor, and a compressor which compresses fluid by being activated by said displacement type expansion machine and said electric motor,

wherein said displacement type expansion machine is formed by a displacement type expansion machine as set forth in claim 8.

Claims 10-12. (Canceled)